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CLAIMS

1. Device for coiling a long product (10) comprising a mandrel (12) with a substantially cylindrical shape and rotating around its own axis, and a containing element (13) coaxial with said mandrel (12), rotating together therewith and defining a front wall (32) to contain the coil of product (10) to be formed, wherein said mandrel (12) comprises a forming zone (17) for at least a first spiral of said coil and wherein said containing element (13) comprises an annular channel (14) to clamp the leading end of said product (10) around said mandrel (12), characterized in that said containing element (13) is axially movable with respect to said mandrel (12) between a first position wherein said leading end of said product (10) is inserted, in which first position said annular channel (14) is arranged in correspondence with said forming zone (17), and a second position wherein said coil of product (10) is completed, in which second position said annular channel (14) is displaced from said forming zone (17), said containing element (13) remaining in said first position temporarily and said second position being retracted with respect to said mandrel (12) so that said annular channel (14) is outside the space occupied by said coil during the completion of said coil.
2. Device as in claim 1, characterized in that said containing element (13) includes an axially sliding inner surface which allows said containing element (13) to slide axially between said first and said second position.
3. Device as in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that it also comprises at least a guide and containing device (15, 16), able to be driven between a first working

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position wherein it cooperates with said containing element (13), and a second inactive position wherein it is arranged distant from said containing element (13).

4. Device as in any claim hereinbefore, characterized in that it also comprises clamping means (21) associated with said mandrel (12) and able to clamp at least temporarily said leading end of said product (10).

5. Device as in claim 4, characterized in that said clamping means comprise pincer means (21) able to be selectively activated, and arranged in correspondence with said forming zone (17) of said mandrel (12).

6. Device as in any claim hereinbefore, characterized in that a lateral wall of said annular channel (14) is parallel to said front wall (32) of said containing element (13), at least the first spiral of said product (10) being able to abut against said lateral wall.

7. Device as in claim 6, characterized in that said lateral wall is made in the form of a ridge or annular tooth (45), attached solidly to or as an integral part of said mandrel (12).

8. Method for coiling a long product (10) achieved by means of a device that comprises a mandrel (12) with a substantially cylindrical shape and rotating around its own axis, and a containing element (13) coaxial with said mandrel (12), rotating together therewith and defining a front wall (32) to contain the coil of product (10) to be formed, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- a first step wherein a leading end of said product (10) is inserted into a guide and containing device (15, 16) able to guide said leading end to a position substantially tangent to a determinate forming zone (17) of said mandrel (12), said first step occurring while

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said containing element (13) is in a first position for the insertion of said leading end of said product (10), substantially in correspondence with said determinate forming zone (17) of said mandrel (12);

- 5 - a second step wherein said leading end of said product (10) is introduced into an annular channel (14) of said containing element (13);
- a third step wherein at least the first spiral of said product (10) is formed inside said containing element
- 10 (13) around said mandrel (12); and
- a fourth step wherein said containing element (13) is displaced axially with respect to said mandrel (12) to a second position for the completion of said coil of product (10), in which second position said annular
- 15 channel (14) is displaced from said forming zone (17), in a retracted position with respect to said mandrel (12) so that said annular channel (14) is outside the space occupied by said coil during the completion of said coil.
9. Method as in claim 8, characterized in that during
- 20 said fourth step said guide and containing device (15, 16) is distanced from said mandrel (12).
10. Method as in claim 8 or 9, characterized in that between the second and the third step clamping means (21) able to keep the leading end of said product (10)
- 25 stationary with respect to said mandrel (12) are temporarily driven.